

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A process for the production of fine chemical comprising increasing or generating expression of at least one nucleic acid molecule in an organism or a part thereof, ~~the expression of wherein the~~ at least one nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, ~~or a fragment thereof, which confers an increase in the amount of fine chemical in an organism or a part thereof;~~
 - b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1; and
 - c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of (a) to (b) and conferring an increase in the amount of fine chemical in an organism or a part thereof;~~or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, by introducing the~~ at least one nucleic acid molecule into ~~the~~ an organism or ~~a~~ the part thereof, growing the organism or the part thereof under conditions which permit ~~the~~ production of at least one fine chemical in said organism or said part thereof, and recovering the at least one fine chemical produced by the organism or the part thereof, wherein the at least one fine chemical is selected from the group consisting of amino acids, carbohydrates, vitamins, organic acids, fatty acids, and carotenoids.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2 further comprising the following steps:
 - a) selecting an organism or a part thereof expressing the polypeptide encoded by the at least one nucleic acid molecule characterized in claim 2;
 - b) mutagenizing the selected organism or the part thereof;

- c) comparing the activity or the expression level of said polypeptide in ~~the~~ mutated organism or ~~the~~ part thereof obtained in step b) with the activity or the expression of said polypeptide of the selected organism or the part thereof;
 - d) selecting ~~the~~ a mutated organism or ~~the~~ a part thereof, which comprises an increased activity or expression level of said polypeptide compared to the selected organism or the part thereof;
 - e) optionally, growing and cultivating the mutated organism or the part thereof; and
 - f) recovering, and optionally isolating, the free or bound fine chemical produced by the ~~selected~~-mutated organism or the part thereof.
5. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the activity of said polypeptide or the expression of said at least one nucleic acid molecule is increased or generated transiently or stably.
- 6-31. (Cancelled)
32. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the at least one nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and conferring an increase in the amount of fine chemical in the organism or the part thereof.
33. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the organism is selected from the group consisting of bacteria, fungi, algae, non-human animals and plants.
34. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the organism is a plant.
35. (Currently amended) A process for the production of fine chemical comprising increasing or generating expression of at least one nucleic acid molecule in an organism or a part thereof, ~~the expression of~~ wherein the at least one nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2; ~~or a fragment thereof, which confers an increase in the amount of fine chemical in an organism or a part thereof;~~

- b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1; and
- c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of (a) to (b) and conferring an increase in the amount of fine chemical in an organism or a part thereof;

~~or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto,~~ by introducing the at least one nucleic acid molecule into ~~the~~ an organism or a part thereof, and growing the organism or the part thereof under conditions which permit ~~the~~ production of the at least one fine chemical in said organism or said part thereof, wherein the organism is selected from the group consisting of bacteria, ~~fungi,~~ algae, non-human animals and plants.

36. (Previously presented) The process of claim 35, wherein the organism is a plant.

37. (Currently amended) The process of claim 35, wherein the activity of said polypeptide or the expression of said at least one nucleic acid molecule is increased or generated transiently or stably.

38. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the at least one nucleic acid molecule encodes the polypeptide as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 or comprises the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1.

39. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the expression of the at least one nucleic acid molecule confers the production of the at least one fine chemical in the organism or the part thereof.

40. (New) The process of claim 35, wherein the at least one fine chemical is selected from the group consisting of amino acids, carbohydrates, vitamins, organic acids, fatty acids, and carotenoids.

41. (New) The process of claim 35, wherein the at least one nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and conferring an increase in the amount of fine chemical in the organism or the part thereof.

42. (New) The process of claim 35, wherein the at least one nucleic acid molecule encodes the polypeptide as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2 or comprises the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1.

43. (New) The process of claim 35, wherein the expression of the at least one nucleic acid molecule confers the production of the at least one fine chemical in the organism or the part thereof.